



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Marc Steinorth
California State Assembly, Room 5128
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 234 – As amended April 5, 2017 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Steinorth,

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 234, legislation that will restore funding for loan payments through the Assumption Program of Loans of Education (APLE). The APLE program provides credentialed teachers with the opportunity to stay and teach in low-performing schools that are historically understaffed by providing them with loan assistance.

California teacher workforce trend continues to decline, and has reached a level of severe shortage. The survey by the Learning Policy Institute indicates 75 percent of districts were experiencing shortages and also indicates it is getting worse. Current teacher enrollments indicate there are not enough students enrolling to become a credentialed teachers. As noted by Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), areas of high need are in special education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and bilingual education.

Education attainment is an economic indicator of economic competitiveness, growth and vitality- and the County we aim to achieve student success through our vision to provide students with an education that will prepare them to complete college or enter into a career. However, this goal cannot be achieved without having teachers to provide our students with an education. The APLE program is an incentive to encourage students to become teachers, as studies indicate scholarship programs are highly effective at recruiting students who would not otherwise pursue a career in teaching. It is also a recruitment tool to incentivize credentialed teachers to teach in low-income areas and ease the burden of financial debt that may be associated with completing a college program.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 234. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lovingood".

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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